

Stream Team Annual Report

2010

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation



What a great trash treasure! Yep . . . they hauled it to shore in their kayak, too! Thanks go to hard-working Team 3419 (The Kabul Waterdogs) and Team 41 (The Ozark Waterways Club) for their cleanup efforts.

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

The Stream Team Program has continued to grow and in 2010 it made the leap into the twenty-first century with the implementation of new technology! A Constant Contact e-mailing system was put into action giving Teams the option to "Go Green" by doing away with paper mailings. We also began work on innovative changes to our in-house database system, including integration of data management and streamlining data entry for volunteers. It is because of these new and exciting updates that this report has arrived later than usual. Stream Team staff frequently had to halt data processing while changes occurred.

Despite some minor inconveniences from growing pains, our volunteers were out in force! Teams statewide continued to impress us with their accomplishments and abilities to consistently report activities that showcase the Stream Team Program and its volunteers as some of the best in the nation. During the past year, we signed on 209 new Teams who helped contribute to the more than 146,000 participant hours logged for 2010. 2010 marks a total of 4,321 Teams, of which 3,672 are still active! It is the dedication

and determination of our Teams that drives the Program onward and upward year after year. Here are some of the past year's accomplishments:

- ◆ 1,155 tons of trash removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 1,109 water quality monitoring trips completed.
- ◆ 17,621 trees planted.
- ◆ 494 storm drains stenciled.
- ◆ 133 habitat improvement projects completed.
- ◆ Over \$3.1 million worth of volunteer labor.
- ◆ Stream Team Academy hosted workshops on: *Invasive & Nuisance Species, Big Rivers, and An Introduction to Crayfish.*



Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri



Above, a young member of Stream Team 3, Bourbeuse River Clean Stream, takes a well-deserved break after a big tire-roundup event.

Dedication & Enthusiasm

Water Quality Monitoring

Water Quality Monitoring is the second most popular Stream Team activity after litter pickups and is what attracts many volunteers to the Program. It provides volunteers with the ability to monitor their adopted stream and collect crucial baseline data. We are often challenged by the overwhelming demand from citizens to attend water quality training. This year 541 volunteers attended 37 workshops.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	14	329
Level 1	5	89
Level 2	7	57
Level 3	6	8
Drawing Workshop	2	19
Review Sessions	2	18
EPT	1	21
Total	37	541

There are four primary levels of Water Quality Monitoring training: Introductory, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. The workshops are structured, like most of the Stream Team Program, to offer different levels of involvement so volunteers can determine how much time and effort they wish to put forth. Averaging over 400 workshop attendees a year, over 7,700 volunteers have been trained since the Water Quality Monitoring activity was first offered in 1993. Recently, the Program has made some adjustments to the way trainings are

scheduled and the requirements needed to advance through the training levels. Volunteers are now required to achieve several milestones prior to receiving their monitoring equipment. These changes have increased volunteer confidence and the reliability of data, and saved money.

In 2010, our staff had the opportunity to attend and present at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Denver, Colorado. This conference is a mix of both technical presentations and volunteer monitoring information, promoting interaction and networking among various program leaders. Our staff presented on volunteer data use and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring on the Missouri River. Both presentations were well received and spurred lots of discussion. The fact that our volunteer data are used to supplement agency-collected data, change stream classifications, add streams to the 303(d) list, and are included in the 305(b) report to EPA is something that other programs across the country aspire to!

Stash Your Trash

The Stash Your Trash Program has been administered by the Stream Team Program since 1999, after starting from humble beginnings among float outfitters in the Ozarks in the 1980s. Designed to target trash on Missouri streams, the Stash Your Trash Program provides trash bags to Float Outfitters

across the state which they, in turn, provide to floaters. 340,000 red mesh litter bags were sent to 110 participating outfitters in 2010. Many of these outfitters show support to the Stream Team Program by offering discounts to Stream Team members. These vendors are highlighted every year in our Float Outfitter Discount Directory. Since 1999, we have provided 3,925,388 bags to outfitters!

In addition, over 18,000 red mesh bags, 14,000 green mesh bags and 5,100 blue poly bags were supplied to Stream Teams for trash removal events.

Stream Team Awards

The annual Stream Team Ambassador Awards are presented to four outstanding Stream Teams or individuals who exemplify all three of the Program goals: Education, Stewardship, and Advocacy. The recipients are:

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- **Linda Swaim**
Team 3714 "Wildcat Glades Audubon Center"
Team 4139 "Southwest Ozarks Stream Team Association"
- **Mark and David Kuechenmeister**
Team 888 "Maline Creek"
- **Sharon Vantuyl and Linda Bishop**
Team 3062 "Friends of Claycomo Parks"
Team 4031 "Timberland/Walnut Creek"

VWQM Ambassador Award

- **George Sims**
Team 3480 "Bonne Idee Farm"
Team 3798 "White River Hills Stream Team Association"



Governor Jay Nixon (front left) and MDC Director Bob Ziehmer (front right) thank several Current River Stream Teams before floating the river.

2010 Fast Facts

During 2010, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **1,155** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **17,621** trees
- ◆ stenciled **494** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **1,109** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **108** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **219** educational projects
- ◆ reported **146,361** total volunteer hours

Respect

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	19	36	17 agreements	\$768.96
Advocacy	24	263	263 hours	\$5,607.00
Agency Project Participation	3	14	2 events	\$299.04
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	105	322	47 articles	\$6,867.24
Association Activities	525	2,030	2,030 hours	\$43,360.80
Award Winners	70	66	32 awards	\$1,409.76
Display at Fairs, etc.	744	5,692	30 events	\$121,581.12
Educational Projects	2,360	11,508	219 events	\$245,810.88
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	96	48	7 trips	\$1,025.28
GPS Mapping	14	14	8 trips	\$305.45
Grant Projects	13	113	5 projects	\$2,413.68
Habitat Improvement	541	2,485	133 projects	\$53,075.33
Inventory	26	46	5 inventories	\$971.88
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	19	54	13 letters	\$1,153.44
Litter Pickups	17,643	82,598	1,155 tons of trash	\$1,764,288.58
Media Contacts	28	259	23 interviews	\$5,535.44
Meetings (held or attended)	938	2,116	979 attendees	\$45,187.08
Mentoring	2	1	1 hours	\$21.36
Monofilament Recycling Project	36	173	64 ounces	\$3,695.28
Other Miscellaneous projects**	1,154	7,693	93 projects	\$164,329.96
Planted Trees	437	1,999	17,621 trees	\$42,698.64
Pre-activity Planning	708	7,706	194 events	\$164,594.82
Photo Point Monitoring	81	122	311 photos	\$2,600.58
Presentations to Other Groups	597	2,766	108 presentations	\$59,081.76
Recruitment (new members)	103	163	57 people	\$3,471.00
River Observation (possible pollution event)	4	14	14 hours	\$299.04
Stream Access Maintenance	36	250	18 events	\$5,340.00
Storm Drain Stenciling	180	631	494 drains	\$13,478.16
Streambank Stabilization Projects	14	37	3 events	\$790.32
Watershed Mapping	5	5	2 trips	\$106.80
Workshops (attended or conducted)	640	5,164	640 attendees	\$110,303.04
Water Quality Monitoring	4,893	11,948	1,109 trips	\$255,205.01
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	17	28	6 trips	\$598.08
Totals	32,075	146,361		\$3,126,274.80

*\$21.36/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising, etc.



Did you know there are 90 species of Mayflies in Missouri, and some are much more sensitive to pollution than others? Above, trained monitors attend our EPT workshop to learn more.

Teams Working Together



The Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (MSTWC) is a not-for-profit organization made up

of representatives from Stream Team Associations throughout the state. Associations are groups of Stream Teams in the same or neighboring watersheds who work together. The Coalition promotes and supports watershed-based Stream Team Associations and the Stream Team Program by serving as a resource for information, education, stewardship and advocacy; facilitating communication among Associations; and serving as a united voice for healthy watersheds in Missouri. Currently

Over \$3.1 million!

there are 14 Stream Team Associations across the state.

21-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ♣ collected **8,301** tons of trash
- ♣ planted **224,751** trees
- ♣ stenciled **13,129** storm drains
- ♣ conducted **22,183** water monitoring trips
- ♣ given **2,702** presentations to other groups
- ♣ completed **3,846** educational projects
- ♣ reported **1,771,212** total volunteer hours



Several St. Louis Region Stream Teams joined forces to conduct a "BIKE WITH YOUR BOOTS ON" water quality monitoring event. They plan to host 6 more BWYBO events in 2011 on six different trails along St. Louis area streams!

Accomplishment

The focus of MSTWC in 2010 was developing strategies and implementing tools to assist Stream Teams and Stream Team Associations in their efforts to protect and improve our water resources. MSTWC developed a strategic plan with four focus areas: education and outreach, technical, sustainable funding, and advocacy.

MSTWC also hired its first executive

director, Holly Neill, who began in the spring of 2010. Holly previously served as the executive director of the James River Basin Partnership which focuses on water quality research, better management practice implementation, education/outreach efforts, and watershed management planning.

To learn more about MSTWC, please visit www.mstwc.org.

What's To Come In 2011 . . .

Much of 2011 is already on the books and Teams have started to see some of the changes we have in store. The Program has hired two new Stream Team Coordinators who are already getting their feet wet working with Teams. There have been additional changes to the VWQM program to keep our volunteers on their toes and providing the best data possible. We are also planning more workshops, regional meetings, and gearing up to debut some of the new changes to our database.

In addition, the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition is becoming more involved in the Program. Work is near completion on a State of the Streams Report that uses volunteer water quality monitoring data to assess stream health.

Also soon to come is a Stream Team License Plate! See www.mstwc.org/act-now/specialty-license-plates/.

Stay tuned as we continue working hard to keep up with our busy volunteers dedicated to protecting Missouri Streams.

♦ Education ♦ Stewardship ♦ Advocacy ♦



Sometimes it's the beautiful view at the end of a hard day's work that makes it all worthwhile! Michael Kerr (Stream Team 921) sent us this great photo of Coward Hollow Falls Natural Area in Carter County.

Questions?

Please contact us at:

- ♦ Missouri Stream Team
PO Box 180
Jefferson City MO 65102
- ♦ 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)
- ♦ streamteam@mdc.mo.gov
- ♦ www.mostreamteam.org



Mike Heimos reported his City of Columbia Crawdads (Team 3517) stayed busy mentoring Boy Scouts about stormwater issues as well as conducting litter pickup events.



No, they're not a new Stream Team football team, just a few hard-working members of Team 509. Their footballs were among the trash treasures found in the brush surrounding a river access.



Check out this trash treasure! Stream Team 365 found a trashed 4-wheeler during their Wilson's Creek clean-up in Greene and Christian Counties.



Stream Team 4071 from Eldon School learns about biological monitoring on Saline Creek in Miller County.